

BOEM's Renewable Energy Program

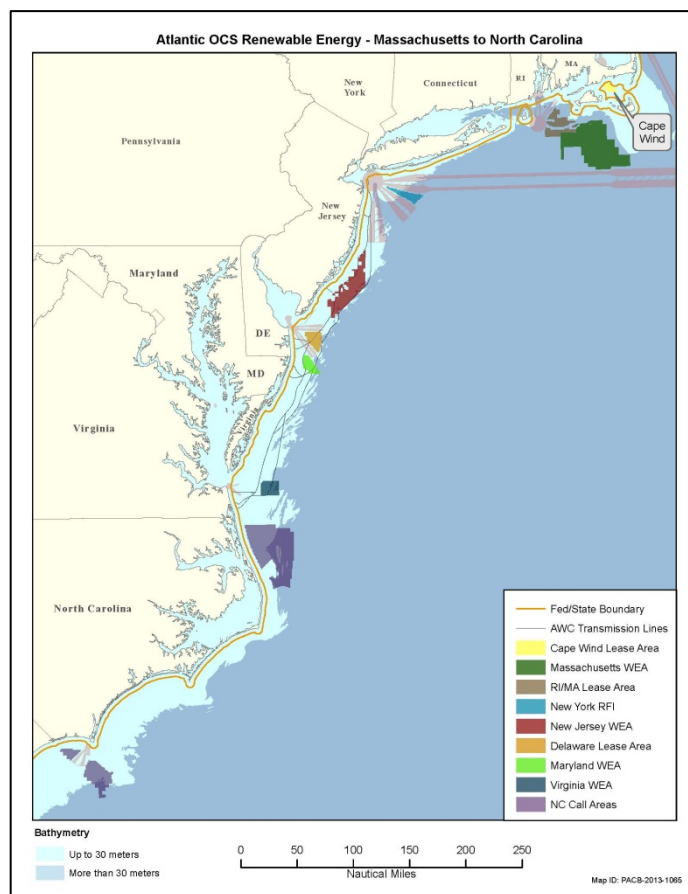
In 2009, President Barack Obama announced the final regulations for the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Renewable Energy Program, which was authorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct). These regulations provide a framework for issuing leases, easements and rights-of-way for OCS activities that support production and transmission of energy from sources other than oil and natural gas. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is responsible for overseeing offshore renewable energy development in Federal waters. Since the regulations were enacted, BOEM has worked diligently to oversee responsible renewable energy development.

Commercial Leasing

A commercial lease gives the lessee the exclusive right to seek BOEM approval for the development of a leasehold. It does not grant the right to construct any facilities. Since 2009, BOEM's Office of Renewable Energy Programs (OREP) has issued five commercial wind energy leases offshore, including those issued to the following companies:

- Cape Wind Associates, LLC, offshore Massachusetts
- Bluewater Wind Delaware, LLC, offshore Delaware
- Deepwater Wind New England, LLC, offshore Rhode Island/Massachusetts (two leases)
- Virginia Electric and Power Company (*dba* Dominion Virginia Power), offshore Virginia

Additionally, BOEM has initiated auction planning for areas offshore Maryland (two leases), New Jersey (two leases), and Massachusetts (up to five leases), and is in the early planning stages for areas offshore North Carolina, New York, Oregon, and Hawaii.



Map: Wind Energy and Call Areas on Atlantic OCS

Limited and Research Leasing

In November 2007, BOEM (then known as Minerals Management Service) announced an Interim Policy to jumpstart data collection and technology testing activities on the OCS prior to the promulgation of final regulations. Leases issued under the Interim Policy have a five year term and provide no subsequent rights to commercial development. To date, BOEM issued four Interim Policy leases, three offshore New Jersey and one offshore Delaware. Two Interim Policy lessees have deployed meteorological buoys off the coast of New Jersey. The other two leases were relinquished in 2012. BOEM anticipates issuing a limited lease during FY 2014 for a project proposed offshore Florida and is

currently considering another lease offshore Georgia under the Interim Policy.

In addition, BOEM received the following unsolicited research lease applications:

- Two research lease requests from the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME). In response to both requests, BOEM determined there was no competitive interest and expects to execute the research leases in 2014.
- A research lease request for a wave energy test site in Federal waters offshore Oregon was submitted to BOEM by Oregon State University. BOEM expects to determine whether competitive interest exists in the area proposed for this project in 2014.

Right-of-Way Grants

BOEM has the authority to issue right-of-way grants that allow developers to build electricity transmission lines that connect renewable energy installations to the onshore electrical grid. During FY 2012, BOEM initiated two right-of-way grant processes:

- A proposed transmission backbone project that would run from Virginia to New York (Atlantic Wind Connection), and
- A cable project that would support a wind project to be located in Rhode Island State waters (Block Island Transmission System).

BOEM expects to receive additional unsolicited applications for right-of-way grants in the near future.

For More Information: Check out the following link to find out what is going on in each of our coastal states: <http://www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy-Program/State-Activities/Index.aspx>